

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY S/S:DANDERSON:JHL

APPROVED BY S/S-MR. ANDERSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 200453 TOSEC 090089

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 24382 ACTION SECSTATE 23 AUG 77

QUOTE

S E C R E T PARIS 24382

NODIS

FOR ACTING SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1, 2, 3

TAGS: PARM SF FR

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM

REF: STATE 200248

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1. I MET WITH SOUTOU THIS MORNING AND GAVE HIM
DETAILED RUN-DOWN ON THREE ASSURANCES WE REQUESTED OF
SOUTH AFRICANS AND THE RESPONSES WE HAVE THUS FAR
RECEIVED. HE WAS APPRECIATIVE OF OUR KEEPING THE
FRENCH INFORMED AND CONCLUDED FROM THIS INITIAL
PRESENTATION, AT LEAST, THAT SOME PROGRESS HAD BEEN

MADE BUT THAT SERIOUS PROBLEMS STILL REMAIN TO BE FACED.

2. SOUTOU SAID THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN RESPONSE TO THE FRENCH DEMARCHE HAD BEEN, FIRST, THAT ALL OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM IS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, AND, SECOND, FROM THE CONTEXT OF ALL REMAINING DISCUSSIONS, THE SOUTH AFRICANS WERE ASKING HOW THEY COULD ASSURE THE WORLD THAT THEY WERE NOT DEVELOPING A NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE OF ANY KIND. THEY DID NOT, HOWEVER, MAKE A FLAT STATEMENT AS THEY HAD APPARENTLY NOW DONE TO US THAT THEY WERE NOT CREATING EVEN A TEST FACILITY FOR NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES.

3. SOUTOU WENT ON TO APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT HE REFERRED TO AS A "MISTAKE" BY HIS MINISTER IN TALKING TO THE PRES. HE SAID THAT HE WAS VERY TIRED AT THE END OF HIS AFRICAN TRIP AND DURING THE COURSE OF AN INTERVIEW DE GUIRINGAUD SLIPPED AND APPEARED TO CONFIRM THAT FRANCE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT SOUTH AFRICA WAS PROCEEDING WITH PREPARATIONS FOR A NUCLEAR TEST BUT THAT THIS WAS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. SOUTOU SAID THAT AS WE CAN SEE FROM HIS ACCOUNT OF THE RESPONSE THEY HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT THAT IS NOT AT ALL AN ACCURATE STATEMENT OF WHAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS SAID. HE EXPRESSED SOME CONSTERNATION AND
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INDEED SAID THE QUAI D'ORSAY HAD NOT YET DECIDED HOW OR WHETHER THEY WOULD TRY TO CLARIFY THE PUBLIC RECORD. HE ALSO SAID THAT PERHAPS IF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT MAKES AN EXPLICIT PUBLIC STATEMENT THIS WILL AVOID ANY NECESSITY OF FRANCE CORRECTING THE RECORD.

3. I MENTIONED THAT WE WERE UNHAPPY TO SEE A REFERENCE TO KALAHARI AND SOUTOU STATED THAT THIS WAS APPARENTLY GIVEN ON BACKGROUND BUT NOT FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM US, BUT RATHER BASED ON A NOTE DISTRIBUTED WITHIN THE QUAI ON THE INITIAL APPROACH OF THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR WHICH HAD SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE KALAHARI DESERT SITE. I CAUTIONED HIM ABOUT ANY RELEASE OF INFORMATION WHICH WE HAD SUPPLIED IN CONFIDENCE.

4. SOUTOU HAD ONE SPECIFIC REQUEST IN WISHING TO KNOW WHETHER THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAD ACTUALLY REFUSED INSPECTION OR WHETHER, IN VIEW OF THE SHORT TIME PRESSURES, WE HAD NOT WAITED FOR AN ANSWER BUT PROCEEDED WITH THE REQUEST FOR ASSURANCES AS A PARALLEL TO WITH REFERENCE TO PRETORIA'S 4282, JUST RECE

IVED,
IF VORSTER MAKES THE STATEMENT FORESEEN, FRENCH WILL
HAVE TO FIND SOME MEANS TO SAY PUBLICLY THAT THEY HAVE
NO INDEPENDENT INFORMATION WHICH CONTRADICTS THE
ASSURANCES GIVEN PUBLICLY BY SOUTH AFRICA.

6. DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED.
HARTMAN.
UNQUOTE CHRISTIPHER.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CAT-B, NUCLEAR TESTS, NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES, NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE200453
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DANDERSON:JHL
Enclosure: DC IS ALSO X2-3
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: N770005-0298
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770832/aaaabate.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9cc4de55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 77 STATE 200248
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1513340
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM
TAGS: PARM, MNUC, SF, FR, US
To: SECRETARY LONDON MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9cc4de55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009